



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Michael Matheson MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

All correspondence c/o:  
Justice Sub-Committee Clerks  
Room T2.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5220  
justicecommittee@parliament.scot

By e-mail

30 January 2018

Dear Michael

### **HMICS undercover policing report**

You will be aware that the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing wishes to take evidence on the HMICS report of its strategic review of undercover policing in Scotland.

You had requested HMICS to carry out this review and I understand that the Inspector provided the report to you on 2 November 2017.

The Sub-Committee had scheduled an evidence session with Derek Penman to consider the content of the report for 7 December. As the report was not available, this evidence session was provisionally re-scheduled to 18 January, pending confirmation of the publication date. As that confirmation was not received, the Sub-Committee rescheduled the evidence session to 1 February, again pending confirmation of the report's publication date.

Your officials indicated that you planned to publish the report on Tuesday 30 January. Based on this information the Sub-Committee agreed to re-schedule the evidence session with Mr Penman to 8 February.

There is a great deal of public and political interest in this issue and I am therefore extremely disappointed that on Monday your officials were in touch to say that the report would not now be published on 30 January and that they were unable to confirm the publication date. As a result, the Sub-Committee is unable to proceed with an evidence session with Mr Penman on 8 February.

This series of delays has inconvenienced Derek Penman, as well as the members of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing.

The Sub-Committee intends to meet on 8 February and I would ask you to attend to give evidence on the undercover policing report.

John Finnie MSP  
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing